Goods Confiscated at Bombay and Delhi Airports

1449. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of goods confiscated at Bombay and Delhi Airport during the last three years year-wise; and

(b) what are the names of the firms/companies whose goods have been confiscated alongwith the value of the goods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

1450. [*Withdrawn.*]

Increase in Limit for Gujarat by R.B.I

1451. SHRI AHMED MOHAMMED BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the limit of ways and means provisions for the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, what is the new limit set;

(c) to what extent it is more in comparision to earlier provisions;

(d) to what extent it will be helpful;

(e) whether the ratio instead of improving had declined in Gujarat;

(f) whether State Government of Gujarat had pleaded for floating a bank in the joint sectors; and

(g) if so, whether the R.B.I. has taken a final decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. R.B.I. has raised the limits for Ways and Means advance, both normal and special, for all the State Governments, banking with them including Govt. of Gujarat with effect from 1-11-1993.

(b) and (c) In respect of Gujarat, the pre-revised and the revised limits for normal and special Ways & Means (W&M) advance alongwith the increases resulted by the above revision are as under :—

(Rs. in crores)

Type of Ways & Means advance	Pre-revised limit	Revised limit	Increases (Col. (3)—(2)
Normal . .	39.20	58.80	19.60
Special . .	14.00	22.40	8.40
TOTAL .	53.20	81.20	28.00

(d) The revised limits of Ways & Means advance are expected to help all the State Governments banking with R.B.I. including Government of Gujarat in better management of their finances and avoiding overdraft.

(e) to (g) Information is being collected and will be furnished.

Release of Budgetary Support to the Central Sector

1452. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have further deferred the release of the promised budgetary support to the cenral sector until the last quarter of 1993-94;

(b) whether it is a fact that this has created serious problems for the fund starved energy and transport sectors, and also those sectors which are wholly dependent on budgetary support such as moral development, and health and social services; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ease the financial presure of these priority sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As a part of normal cash management certain payments were deferred for a short period in June, 1993.

There has been no further deferment of expenditure thereafter. Even under the deforment in June, 1993 exceptions were made on merits. It is, therefore, not correct to assume that developmental projects have suffered on account of deferment.

(c) Does not arise.

Tax Revenues from Tabacco Sector

1453. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps proposed to being about on increase in the tax base and consequently on the increase in tax revenues from the Tabacco Sector;

(b) whether Government have received representations to reduce excise duty on the lowest grade of cigarettes so as to increase revenues from that segment; and

(c) the steps proposed to implement reforms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Government have received representations for reduction of excise duty on cigarettes of lower length. However, in view of the ensuing budget, it is not possible to indicate the views of the Government in this matter at this stage.

Adverse Implications of External Liabilities on Debt Service Payment

1454. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a marked shift in the composition of the country's external liabilities since the 1980's with the official sector accounting for less and less of them, and the non-official sector steadly increasing its segment, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this shift is likely to have an adverse mplication for the debt service payments in future; if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to contain this shift to avoid any adverse implications on the debt service payments in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The share of external debt on Government Account out of total external liability (excluding defence and NRI Deposits) of the country has declined from 73% in 1980-81 to 63% in 1992-93.

(b) and (c) External debt on Government Account is received on highly concessional terms i.e. on nominal rate of interest and longer maturity period for repayment whereas debt on other accounts is being received on non-concessional terms, i.e. higher rate of interest and shorter maturity period for repayment. Government is however, conscious about the country's external debt liability and keeps a constant watch on the level of country's indebtedness and likely burden of debt servicing. Government has taken a number of steps to bring about improvements in revenue receipts to eliminate inessential and low priority expenditure, to boost exports, to increase invisible earnings, to ensure efficient import substitution, to increase non-debt creating inflow of foreign funds, and to reduce dependence on borrowed funds for financing expenditure. These steps would improve, in long term, the economic condition of the country and revitalise our growth process, including our export earning capacity, so as to enhance our capacity to generate sufficient funds needed for the economy to repay the loans and thus reduce dependence on borrowed funds.